

# CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

## The Time Is Now!

HERMAN F. REISSIG

In the weeks immediately ahead the Congress of the United States will make two momentous decisions. Whether or not the decisions will be the right ones depends—more than you think!—on what, in the next few weeks, you and I say to our Senators and Congressmen.

**DECISION NUMBER ONE:** Will the United States make available for aid to other countries the amount of money requested by the Eisenhower administration? The total amount requested is \$3,942 million in a total United States budget of 73 billion. If the Congress appropriates this amount, \$2,635 million will be used for direct and indirect military assistance, mainly in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. \$1,107 million will be used for economic aid in about seventy countries. But of this latter amount, \$625 million will go into the new Development Loan Fund—money that will be loaned, not given, and paid back with interest. This means that the United States is being asked to *give*, in the next fiscal year, for economic development abroad only about \$682 million.

Can anyone seriously argue that this

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## Churchmen to Confer on Citizenship

The Churchmen's Brotherhood of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, the Laymen's Fellowship of the Congregational Christian Churches, and the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ, will co-operate in conducting a National Conference on the Churchman as a Citizen, to be held at Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pennsylvania, June 20 to 22.

Professor Roger L. Shinn of the Divinity School of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, will give the major addresses on "Our Christian Responsibility in Political Life" and "Areas of Concern to Christians in Political Life." Other resource leaders will participate in panel discussions. But the major emphasis will be on group discussions in which conference participants will deal with various problems and methods of action.

The meeting, scheduled on a week-end to make possible maximum lay attendance, is not intended to come up with pronouncements on the concrete issues under debate in the political arena. Rather, it is hoped that there will be developed a clearer understanding of the nature of the Christian's role

as a citizen and the "handles" by which individuals and church groups may be effective in civic and political life.

The synods and state conferences are asked to select four to six outstanding laymen each, as representatives to this meetings. Conference superintendents and synod presidents will confer with social action committee chairmen and the persons responsible for men's work in making selections. Men interested in attending should consult these officers, or write to Dr. Kenneth Kohler, executive secretary, Churchmen's Brotherhood, 1720 Chouteau Ave., St. Louis 3, Missouri.

Ursinus College offers excellent facilities for this gathering. The campus is not far from the Valley Forge exit of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Many men will arrange to make this a week-end stop on their way to the Congregational Christian General Council in Boston, with the possible additional inducement of a one-day United Nations Seminar in New York on Monday, June 23.

## SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR

- April 15-17—CCSA Washington Seminar.
- June 20-22—Conference on the Churchman as a Citizen, Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pennsylvania.
- June 30-July 12—Race Relations Institute, Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.
- June 30-August 8—European Study Seminar, Galen R. Weaver, Director.
- July 1-5—West Coast Christian Social Action Institute, Mill Valley, California.
- July 8-12—Mid-West Christian Social Action Institute, Plymouth, Wisconsin.
- July 15-19—Central States Christian Social Action Institute, Oberlin College, Oberlin.
- July 21-25—Interdenominational Institute on Racial and Cultural Relations, McCormick Seminary, Chicago, Ill.
- July 22-26—Eastern Christian Social Action Institute, Framingham, Massachusetts.
- August 8-27—Mexican Study Seminar, Huber F. Klemme, Director.
- August 19-22—National Conference on Christian Education, Lafayette, Ind.



GEORGE KALEC

Ray Gibbons, Director of the Council for Christian Social Action, is shown above with Field Secretary F. Nelsen Schlegel, pointing out some of America's worldwide interests to members of the 1958 interdenominational Churchmen's Washington Seminar. A second seminar is being planned by the Council for Christian Social Action on April 15 to 17.

## CONFERENCES, SYNODS, ASSOCIATIONS OFFER LEADERSHIP

State conferences, synods, and associations, according to reports and programs received in the Council office, show a considerable degree of vitality and ingenuity in alerting the congregations for which they are responsible and in serving their need for program suggestions, resources, and assistance.

Nebraska Conference, for example, has prepared a Manual for Christian Social Action, containing sections on What is Christian Social Action? Where It Begins, The Committee, Getting Started, and other basic questions. Accompanying the Manual went a letter outlining the program of the state conference in social action. Federal Aid to Education, and Hospitality to Foreign Students are among the emphases selected during the current year under the chairmanship of Dr. Leroy Laase, with Donald H. Scheuer as part-time staff member.

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Lincoln Association in Maine is among those which find the problems of the aging and the needs of youth especially urgent. A "legislative watch" has been set on current state bills in these areas and plans made for notifying local groups when such bills required vocal local support or opposition.

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The social action committee of the Middle Atlantic Conference stressed racial integration, social welfare, and American Responsibility in the Contemporary World at its semi-annual seminar. With Mr. Charles E. Bingham as director and Mrs. Russell T. Loesch as chairman of the subcommittee on churches and welfare activities, the committee's bulletin helped to prod churches in the conference to become aware of the problems of the aging and other groups with special needs.

A unique feature of the Middle Atlantic Conference is the subdivision of this committee into two area committees with the Reverend Alfred Wycoff as New Jersey area chairman and Mr. Charles M. English as chairman for the Washington area. Among the activities reported by the Washington Area committee were a report by John Burton on CSA's 1957 European Seminar with the shocking title, "My Red Adventure with the CSA Seminar" and support of action condemning the suppression of freedom in South Africa.

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The Massachusetts Conference,

abetted by the energetic staff work of Myron Fowell, has cooperated with the Massachusetts Council of Churches and other groups, in a statewide campaign against organized gambling and crime. A brief memorandum on organizing citizens' committees, prepared by the New England Crime Commission, and a more detailed brochure, entitled "A Two Billion Dollar Problem," were made available to interested social action leaders throughout the state.

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At the fall Joint Association Meeting of Suffolk North, Suffolk South, Suffolk West, and Woburn associations at Arlington, Massachusetts, a generous period was set aside for five seminars, four of which had immediate social action implications—Housing for Non-Caucasians, Alcoholism and the Church in Metropolitan Boston, Over-all Strategy for Inner Boston Churches, and Helping a Church Discover its Future. For that matter, the fifth seminar had social action possibilities also. It dealt with the Role of Church Officers, Deacons and Deaconesses.

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The Ohio Conference social action committee, under the chairmanship of the Reverend Vernon Holloway, of Brecksville, and an "alumnus" of the Council for Social Action staff, has been most active this year. In addition to sparking one of the most ambitious field programs going in cooperation with the national staff and the four Ohio synods, and doing "ordinary" things like commending the President for his stand in Little Rock, this committee participated in a study of the state conference structure and produced a penetrating analysis of the function and needs of a conference social action committee. Copies may be secured on request from the Council for Christian Social Action's New York office. Ask for "The Conference and Synod Social Action Committee: Some Principles and Problems."

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In many places synod and state conference committees are working together. In California, for example, because of her membership in a federated church, Miss Olga Sievert serves both as a member of the Northern California Conference committee and as chairman (no less) of the California Synod Committee. The North Illinois Synod committee has met with the corresponding "CC" group in Chicago. Ohio and Mis-

souri, too, plan to maintain regular liaison between conference and synod committees.

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Congregationalists have been conspicuous in cooperating with the Santa Clara County (California) Council of Churches in a second annual Institute on Racial and Cultural Relations. Among the speakers were Dr. Herman H. Long of the Department of Race Relations, American Missionary Association; the Reverend Byron Eshelman, chaplain at San Quentin Prison, who discussed "Segregation and Crime;" and representatives from business, labor, and local government.

In this connection, First Church of Palo Alto has agreed to help non-Caucasians, especially graduate students at Stanford University, to find suitable living quarters without discrimination.

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For the third successive year, the committee on Christian social action of South Illinois Synod has conducted a successful one-day workshop on Christian social action. Meeting this year at St. Peter's Church, Granite City, were 134 registrants for the morning and afternoon session and 189 young people for the evening meeting.

In the morning, the group considered rural social problems. The Reverend Shirely E. Greene, secretary for the Town and Country Church Committee of the Board of National Missions, and Mr. Melvin P. Gehlbach, a farm manager of Lincoln, Illinois, discussed the soil bank program and related rural problems.

In the afternoon, the session turned its attention to the family, with a minister, the Reverend Nelson Reagan, and a sociologist, Dr. Virgil Seymour, offering varied approaches to the matter.

The group then divided for field trips to the Granite City Steel Company and to the U. S. Army Engineering Depot, respectively.

The evening session faced the question of narcotics. Mr. Alan Dixon, a member of the State Legislature, described the situation as it affected the East St. Louis area; and Prof. Jules Henry, an anthropologist, interpreted the problems of youth in relation to drug addiction.

The Reverend Robert J. Baumann, pastor of St. Peter's Church, is chairman of the committee.

## The Time Is Now!

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is too much? Considering the wealth of our country, the appalling poverty of two-thirds of the world, and the all-out effort of Russia to win the support of the underdeveloped countries, the amount we are being asked to give is pitifully small. President Eisenhower says so. Former President Truman says so. Adlai Stevenson agrees. Secretary Dulles agrees. Yet the fact is that our Senators and Congressmen are being pressed by some of their constituents to slash the amount for foreign aid. And they say they are *not* hearing from Americans who think we ought to do more, not less.

*The time is now!* Today, write to your Congressman and to your Senators! Let them know you think both the self-interest of the United States and our moral obligation demand that at least the full amount requested for foreign economic aid should be voted!

**DECISION NUMBER TWO:** Will the United States continue its policy of encouraging international trade through the Reciprocal Trade Agreements program? Or will the present session of Congress take us back to the old system of pushing up the tariff wall whenever an industry or a community cries for protection? This decision may be even more important than the decision on economic aid. To be sure, this matter presents a problem to certain industries which have to meet vigorous foreign competition. The question is: Do we fix tariff rates in accordance with our over-all foreign policy, or in accordance with a local situation? Do we ask about the welfare of the whole country—not to speak of world welfare!—or only about the people in this or that town?

The top political leaders in both parties and the leaders in most of our major industries support the present system, under which the U. S., as a whole, can make bargains with other countries to their mutual advantage. But here, again, fierce pressure is being put on Senators and Congressmen by local interests which are being hurt by imports, or which think they may be hurt. These interests are glad to sell American products to other countries and do not understand that these countries cannot buy from us unless they can sell to us. They do not remember that foreign trade, which must be two-way, makes jobs for hundreds of thousands of Americans.

*The time is now!* There is real danger that, despite the appeals of Re-

publican and Democratic leaders, Congress may seriously impair the trade policy under which we now operate. Let your Congressman (especially your Congressman!) but also your Senators know that raising tariffs may, for the moment, help a few Americans but, in the end, will hurt all of us. Ask for a five-year extension of the Reciprocal Trade Agreements legislation, without crippling amendments.

## GERMAN CHURCH STUDIES INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY

Under the direction of Pastor Horst Symanowski, the Evangelical Church in Germany has conducted two seminars on the Church and Industrial Society. Lecturers include university professors, members of the faculty of the Evangelical Academies, theologians, social scientists, and lay spokesmen from labor and management.

The third of these seminars begins November 1, 1958 and runs until the middle of April, 1959. The cost of the seminar is \$260 for meals and housing, plus one-half of the participant's earnings during his two months of factory work.

The Reverend Robert B. Starbuck, a minister of the United Church of Christ serving as a fraternal worker with the project, reports that the seminar would welcome one or two American theological students or ministers having a solid grasp of the German language.

Persons interested should write to Mr. Starbuck at General Mudra Strasse 1-3, Mainz-Kastel, Germany.

## How One Local Committee Got Started

Clague Road Congregational Church, North Olmsted, Ohio, did not have a committee on Christian Social Action until February, 1958. But at its first meeting the committee got off to a good start. For one thing, every member of the committee was made responsible for a specific area or function on which to report at the March meeting. Then, the committee decided to ask the minister, the Reverend George Penn, to preach one or more sermons interpreting our Christian social concern for the congregation. (They have every reason to believe their minister will not resist this kind of request!) Third, they divided the contents of *Tool Chest* among their members, and authorized the literature chairman to purchase copies of CCSA packets and other printed materials. And to top off a good evening, every member of the committee personally subscribed to *SOCIAL ACTION* magazine in

## VISIT MISSOURI CAPITAL

An ambitious three-day Christian Social Action Institute and State Legislative Seminar was conducted by social action leaders in Missouri, February 10-12. Starting out from St. Louis on Monday morning, the group migrated to the state capital at Jefferson City where members met their own representatives, visited the State Senate in session, and later were addressed by Lieutenant Governor Earl Long.

Tuesday's program included an examination of how the state deals with youth, and a panel on "how a bill becomes a law," moderated by Representative Clifford Jones, a Congregational Christian layman. The third day included a trip to the state hospital at Fulton and a conference with Dr. Alfred Baur, Evangelical and Reformed layman, psychiatrist, and state hospital administrator.

Over 40 persons attended all or part of the institute.

## BEEN TO THE "UN"?

The present struggle for a decent and adequate international economic policy is only one of the crucial aspects of international relations which command our attention and concern as Christians.

To get a first-hand insight into the United Nations and the problems of world peace and order, put down the dates October 7-9, 1958 for the UNITED NATIONS — WORLD ORDER SEMINAR. For information write to the Reverend Herman F. Reissig, 289 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

addition to entering a committee subscription for the church literature table.

At its second meeting the committee received excellent reports from its members and discussed the social action literature thoroughly. Then it appointed a representative to the North Olmsted Community Council and decided to make a community audit. With the announcement in the Sunday bulletin of the organizing of the Social Action Committee there appeared an invitation to pick up information from the literature table on "aid and trade." Each committee member is studying one of the statements for study and action which appeared in February *CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY*. Opportunity will be offered for anyone interested to discuss these statements with the committee, and it is hoped to have a report to submit to CSA before the Congregational Christian General Council meeting in June.

## Advertise Welcome

From William H. Kemnitz of Ann Arbor, Michigan, comes an interesting account of a new twist to Brotherhood Week. There the Citizens' Committee on Inter-Group Relations published in the February 22 issue of the *Ann Arbor News* a "Statement of Welcome" which read in part:

"In recognition of Brotherhood Week, we the undersigned residents and/or property holders of Greater Ann Arbor wish to share these beliefs with our friends and neighbors:

"We believe that a community is strengthened and enriched as all of its citizens live, learn, and work together to the best of their individual abilities.

"We believe that all restrictions, be they legal or informal which make it difficult or impossible for all people to partake of the opportunities offered by living in Ann Arbor also deprive each of us and our children of a chance to become truly better citizens and neighbors.

"... We, as homeowners and residents in particular, want to be counted as welcoming into our neighborhoods all responsible persons without regard to the color of their skin, the manner in which they worship, or the part of the world from which they come."

With the statement appeared the names of hundreds of residents who subscribed to the statement and contributed to the cost of the page.

## CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

News and Program Service of the  
Council for Christian Social Action  
of the United Church of Christ  
Ray Gibbons, Director

Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor

Sent free to pastors and social action committees.

Group subscriptions, 10 or more to one address, 50 cents each.

Individual subscriptions, \$2 per year with SOCIAL ACTION.

General communications and orders from Evangelical and Reformed churches should be addressed to the Editor, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Congregational Christians should order from Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

The Council for Christian Social Action unites the work of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

## ANNOUNCING SEMINAR SAVINGS PLAN

What would it mean to you to study and travel abroad? Especially, to travel with a CCSA Seminar which acquaints you with the outstanding social issues in each country, some of the leading personalities, and what the churches are doing?

Such an experience gives you hundreds of live, interesting illustrations for sermons and talks, a new understanding of how people live in other countries, and an awakened interest in news and views from other lands. It gives a whole new outlook on people and places you read about—people who are the children of God living in other parts of the world. Each year the Council for Christian Social Action conducts a seminar to Mexico and one overseas.

The 1958 Mexican Seminar includes one week in Mexico City, followed by nearly two weeks of touring with the Reverend and Mrs. Huber F. Klemme in charge. Cost of this tour is \$295.00 plus transportation to and from Mexico City.

In 1958 the European Seminar will go to

England, France, Germany, Poland, Russia, Finland, and Sweden, led by the Reverend and Mrs. Galen R. Weaver. (Price \$1695).

In 1959 the seminar to Europe and the Middle East will travel to England, France, Italy, Syria, Jordan, Israel, Turkey, Greece and probably Iraq, led by the Reverend and Mrs. Herman F. Reissig. (Price about \$1750).

You can't afford to miss such opportunities. But how can you afford to take advantage of them? The CCSA helps to make this financially possible through its pre-payment **Seminar Savings Plan**. Send fifty dollars or more with a coupon in envelopes provided by the CCSA. You will receive interest on your money toward the expenses of your seminar. If you are unable to go your money will be returned, less interest retained for service charges.

This plan will commend itself to pastors who wish the church to withhold and deposit a portion of the salary for professional improvement or who want to save their fees and honoraria for future study and travel.

For further information or enrollment write to Dr. Ray Gibbons, Director, Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

## PLAN DESEGREGATED HOUSING PROGRAM

The Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ is exploring with social action agencies of other denominations ways of providing professional leadership to eliminate practices which restrict opportunities for Negroes to purchase, finance and occupy decent housing on the same basis as members of the white majority. The other denominations cooperating are the American Baptist, Methodist, Disciples of Christ, and Presbyterian U. S. A.

Plans are to work in three selected northern cities with church groups, realtors, and financing institutions to win acceptance, change selling and mortgaging restrictions, and develop good community relations.

Foundation grants are being sought to help sustain this project. However, such grants will supplement rather than supplant gifts from individuals and local groups in the churches involved. Contributions in any amount for "Housing Desegregation" — an "Authorized Special" for Congregational Christians, or designated gifts for Evangelical and Reformed givers — will be gladly accepted by the New York and Cleveland offices respectively; for the funds coming to the CCSA through the regular channels are not adequate to provide for our basic program and this additional purpose.

## "PROJECT STICKER"

*"I am a customer who would welcome being served personally by those whose race, creed or color may be different than my own."*

Stickers carrying the above words are being attached to the monthly bills being paid by many Denver residents. Starting out slowly, it is expected that this project will continue for months, and will make use of hundreds of thousands of stickers. The Denver Council of Churches is one of a number of sponsors. The Social Action Department of the Colorado Council of Churches voted approval at its November meeting.

Says the Newsletter of the Department, edited by Congregationalist Clark P. Garman, "This is a definite way in which we can inform employers, Department Stores, Public Service Company, and others, that if they believe the public objects to being served by Negroes and other minority peoples, they are mistaken. At present, but 11 firms in Denver employ one or more Negroes as sales people, secretaries, clerks, etc., where they come face to face with the public.

"Employment on a basis of equality, and Housing Segregation are two fields to which we Coloradans can well give attention while expecting other sections of the country to amend their discriminative practices."

To which the rest of us can only add, "Amen!"